

Cumorah's Southern Messenger



MARCH 1962

Registered at the G.P.O.
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“CUMORAH’S”

SOUTHERN MESSENGER

MARCH, 1962

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PROCRASTINATION

HOW many times have we heard it said, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today?" Procrastination is but one of the many tools of the Devil. He uses it in the attempt to hinder the plan of God. If he can influence a person to "put off until tomorrow" the work that he should do today, it is very unlikely that the work will ever be completed on time.

A person who continuously puts off his work, can in no manner command respect from his associates. Nor should he ever expect to receive it. Of what good is a concert ticket a day after the concert has been presented. Or in the same respect what good is a man who is always a "day late?" He will very soon lose face with his friends and associates.

Amuick, in the Book of Mormon, warns explicitly against procrastination concerning religious matters. "And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnessess, therefore, I beseech you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of

darkness wherein there can be no labour performed. Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crises, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world. For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked." (Alma 34:33-35)

It requires but little foresight to see the bitter fruits of procrastination; sorrow, unhappiness, and if our case be in the religious sense . . . eternal damnation with Devil and his associates. A just reward for a slothful servant.

We can not afford procrastination — the price is too high. But it costs nothing, and we have the eternal worlds to gain, if we do not "put off until tomorrow," but instead "do it today."

MLT

CHURCH NEWS

THE "spirit of conversion" has indeed been abroad in the world during 1961 to bring the Church a phenomenal record of convert-baptisms.

The final records show a 120 per cent increase over the previous year in convert-baptism in full-time missions of the Church.

The total number of convert-baptisms for the year of 1961 amounted to 88,807.

OAKLAND TEMPLE

CONSTRUCTION work on the Oakland Temple is scheduled to get under way this spring. The temple occupies a magnificent site overlooking San Francisco Bay.

Final plans for the 1,800,000 Rand structure are nearing completion, according to Harold W. Burton, supervising architect of the Church Building Committee who designed the Oakland Temple. There have been no major changes in the original plans that were approved by the First Presidency.

President O. Leslie Stone of the Oakland-Berkeley Stake and chairman of the Oakland Temple District said the target date for dedication has been set for September of 1963.

THE CHURCH NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

26 STAKES FORMED DURING 1961

DURING 1961 twenty-six new stakes were organised throughout the world; increasing the number of stakes to 345 at the end of the year.

Both 1960 and 1961 witnessed the organisation of more stakes than during any single previous year. The list of stakes created during these two years also shows a wider geographic distribution than ever before. These facts reflect the rapid growth of the Church throughout the world. Not only does the creation of new stakes reflect increased membership, but also real progress in the development of Church programs.

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIAN VISITS UTAH

MR. H. J. Aschenborn of the State Library in Pretoria, spent half of a week inspecting the huge Genealogical Association library and its microfilming facilities in Salt Lake City. He also visited the Utah Historical Library.

Mr. Aschenborn was directed to Salt Lake from the Library of Congress where he spent a month. He termed the storage of records as being provided by the Church as "unique".

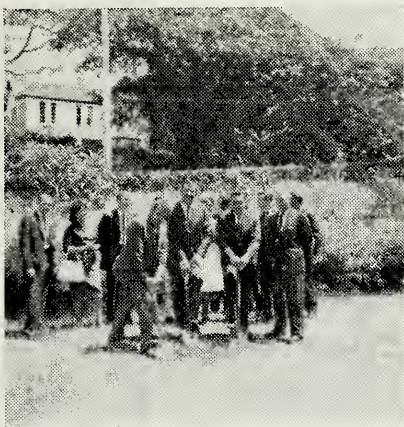
Durban Remodels Chapel

THE remodelling of the Durban chapel consists of the erection and completion of a reinforced concrete structure, 40 feet high, the upper level of which will be about 47 feet by 105 feet, consisting of a cultural hall with a stage having cloakroom facilities behind. The present chapel will be extended by about 14 feet. A Relief Society room, new kitchen, and covered way will also be added. The chapel will open into the hall for overflow crowds.

The roof over the whole structure will be tiles supported partly on conventional wood trusses and partly on laminated timber portals.

The lower level beneath the central portion of the hall will be tar-macadam paved for car parking, and the area below the west end of the hall will be enclosed to form a general purposes room, 47 feet by 18 feet. Below the east end of the hall will be a squash court with stores and change room accommodation.

The additions will cost approximately R45,000 exclusive of furnishings.

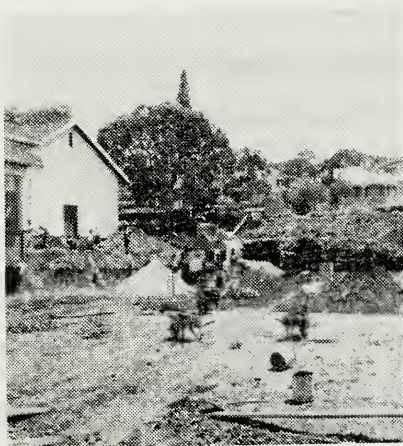


GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

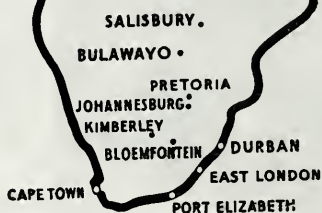
Left to right, front:

Victor H. Henning, Christopher C. Duffield, President Raymond D. Bayley, and President O. Layton Alldredge.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ADDITION UNDERWAY



MISSION WIDE STATISTICS



1. Church Membership	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,974
2. Number of Districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
3. Number of Branches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
4. Number of Aaronic Priesthood:									
(a) Under 21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
(b) Over 21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
5. Number of Melchizedek Priesthood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	178
6. Number who hold no Priesthood:									
(a) Under 21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
(b) Over 21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	589
7. Number of Church owned buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

BRANCH STATISTICS

	Elders	Priests	Teachers	Deacons	Male Members	Female Members	Total Membership
Bellville	2	—	1	6	31	49	89
Bloemfontein	8	4	7	4	42	62	127
Bulawayo	5	3	1	2	37	66	114
Copperbelt	4	8	—	6	46	59	123
Durban	24	18	14	15	108	248	428
East Rand	6	1	3	6	76	109	201
East London	4	2	1	4	33	63	107
Krugersdorp	9	6	4	10	67	110	206
Luanshya	—	—	1	1	5	9	16
Margate	2	—	—	—	7	9	18
Mowbray	27	14	6	9	183	282	521
Pietermaritzburg	3	4	4	0	17	42	70
Port Elizabeth	6	3	4	9	84	115	221
Pretoria	11	3	3	11	87	145	260
Primrose	5	1	2	1	52	66	127
Ramah	30	19	14	23	329	495	910
Salisbury	7	3	2	8	40	74	135
Springs	13	2	7	1	94	97	214
Welkom	4	2	—	9	29	44	87

THE TRUTH

PICTURE in your mind a lonely ocean liner, without power or radio, completely at the mercy of the elements, riding a mountainous stormtossed sea lashed into a frenzy by hurricane force winds.

Disaster was eminent and at any moment the ship could flounder to the bottomless depths of the ocean and be lost forever.

Now let us change the scene to a distant port where the Harbour Master is operating charts and plotting the various movements of ocean traffic. There had been no response from the ship in our story. Knowing the danger that existed, he immediately dispatched two harbour craft in the direction whence he had last made contact with our ship. There were no other craft in the area upon which he could rely. He knew the situation was desperate. But he nevertheless had great faith in those who served him, and under his guidance those two little ships steamed gallantly out upon their mission.

Those two little ships earned the reward they so justly deserved. Their search ended in success and they finally towed the liner safely to port amid great rejoicing.

This simple story could well be likened to a much more personal one. That of our family the Van Heerdens.

We were undergoing a period of turmoil and confusion. There was continual strife in our home. We never attended church anymore although we were members of a well-known church of this country. Things were going from bad to worse and the very foundations of our family life were threatened with disaster.

This was when God, in his eternal wisdom decided to give us another chance. Two elders of the Church

of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints namely Glen Waltman and Marvin Jones, under the guidance of our Heavenly Father then decided to take a hand in our affairs.

Almost immediately we were filled with a new spirit of conviction. Our interest was awakened. Here at last was renewed hope and a divine message that we could appreciate and understand.

After the very first lesson the unity of our family was reborn. We soon learned to pray and attend church regularly, becoming more and more absorbed in the Gospel by reading the words of God so beautifully described in the Book of Mormon and the Bible. It was indeed wonderful to be able to worship God as a family, united by the fellowship of Latter-Day Saints.

There is no shadow of doubt that all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us can directly be attributed to our association with the true church of Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is our solemn testimony to you that as surely as God guided the destiny of the Prophet Joseph Smith in restoring the true church of righteous worship, so steadfast will our faith remain in His principles and the church he has elected for us.

How can we dare to say differently when we know that what we have written is true.

Words alone are inadequate to truly describe our feelings, but it is our sincere hope that we have in some measure conveyed what our new found faith means to us.

In Jesus name we shall pray for all those beset by uncertainty, as we were, so that they too may be guided to a haven of safety and be inspired with the will to get closer to God.

The Willem Johan van Heerden Family, Port Elizabeth Branch

LEADERSHIP



Elder David Norton

ABRAMHAM LINCOLN said "Nearly all men can stand adversity; but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

As we study history, we can see how many men have gained much power and authority among man, and before God. Many of them, however, have died as failures. "We have learned by sad experience that it is the nature and disposition of almost all men, as soon as they get a little authority, as they suppose, they will immediately begin to exercise unrighteous dominion." (D&C 121: 39). Whether he be a leader of a country, or in the Kingdom of God, he is guided by our Father in Heaven in all that he does in righteousness. But when he shoves into unrighteous dominion, God will no longer guide and direct the actions of that man. "Behold ere he is aware, he is left unto himself, to kick against the pricks, to persecute the saints and to fight against God." (D&C 121: 38)

"I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." (1 Nephi 3: 7) Great men of the world are often without the aid of God; however, everyone that has an office in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been called through the inspiration of God. For in the Doc. Hist. vol. 6 page 367 we read that, "Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the grand council in Heaven before this world was." Everyone has a great store of talents which we could use to the betterment of ourselves and of our fellow men. In the Church we are given the opportunity to use many of our known talents and to bring forth many of our hidden ones. Ben Franklin tells us to "Hide not your talents, they for use were made, what is a sun-dial in the shade." If we, as children did not take our first step, we would not be walking today, if we did not utter our first word, we would not be talking today, if the leaders of the church did not accept their first assignment, where would they be today?

You are the person who has to decide
Whether you'll do it or toss it aside
You're the person who makes up your mind
Whether you'll lead or will linger behind.
Whether you'll try for the goal that's afar
Or just be content to stay where you are.

When we are asked to do something for the work of the Lord, we should accept it with a desire to better ourselves, and to be an instrument in bringing progress into our branch and the Kingdom of God.

Conversion Story

MY first impression of the sisters arriving at our home was one of surprise and amazement.

Firstly, because they were so devout in their religious teachings, secondly, because I did not even know the Mormon Church existed. I always thought a "Mormon" was a man with more than one wife.

Needless to say as soon as the lessons were under way, I became deeply interested; it gave me a sense of peace and a contented feeling.

For generations my family and I have always belonged to the Church of England but I personally have not been happy with that church. I always felt as if something was lacking.

Since becoming a Mormon I have felt at peace, and know that within myself this is my church.

The way it has affected my life is simply this. Before my family and I joined the Church and heard the gospel, my husband was always reluctant to go to the Church of England's meetings and services; my daughter and I always went alone. Now I am very happy to say that my husband is now the one who leads us and is attending all meetings. I do know that since our family have become Mormons there is more peace and tolerance in the home, and I thank my Heavenly Father for guiding these two young missionaries to our home. May God bless them to keep spreading this lovely gospel wherever they go, as my husband and daughter intend to do the same.

Sister Lambert,
Ramah Branch



SEARCH AND YE SHALL FIND

EVERY principle of healing, every principle of the power of the Holy Ghost and of God which have been manifested to the Saints in all ages, have been bestowed upon the Latter-day Saints. There is no principle, there is no blessing, there is no advantage, there is no truth in any other religious society or organization which is not included in the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by Joseph Smith, the Prophet, and after him by the leaders and elders of this Church. But it requires some effort on our part, some exertion, some devotion, to learn of and to enjoy these things. If we neglect them, we are, of course, not the recipients of the blessings that follow effort, and that come from a thorough understanding of these principles. Hence it is that others may come in among us and advocate their ideas which, though not comparing with ours in plain-

ness, instruction, and truth, are yet listened to by people who are made to believe that all things are new, and not contained in the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Latter-day Saints. This is a fearful fallacy, and one that should be guarded against by everyone who loves the gospel.

In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be found, to a greater extent than in any other church, the principles of life and salvation; and if we search them out of our literature and learn them for ourselves, have them confirmed by the Spirit, by right living, and make them a part of ourselves, we shall find greater comfort and richer blessings, greater treasures of everlasting life than in any other teachings that may be given to us by any other organization upon the earth.

President Joseph F. Smith



That Which Brings Joy

Elder Brent Reynolds

IF you had a friend or relative that was in need of an emergency blood transfusion, and you found out that you are the only one with his blood type—would you not give consent to the transfusion of life-saving blood which he needs? When he recovers, your joy and happiness is great because you have saved a life.

We can liken the blood unto the soul saving principles of the Gospel and the transfusion unto that of our sharing the Gospel with others. This is only a physical being you have saved. But think of the joy if it would have been a soul in the Kingdom of God. "And if it so be that you should labour all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father! And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!" (D&C 18:15-16)

Once again lets liken the emergency of the transfusion to the time we have. It is in the last dis-

pensation and we want to share the Gospel with everyone. The missionaries meet many people, but think of the time that could be saved if we met with only those that are interested, and we can teach. This can only be done by group teaching.

It is true that not every person we invite into our homes will accept the Gospel. But the chances are much greater by doing it this way because we meet those who are willing to listen. Those who have seen what the joy the Gospel has brought to us, and those that have seen the change in our life.

Let us remember that it is our responsibility to let everyone hear the Gospel. We can't say "I know he's not interested or he will never join the Church." We must contact everyone. "Behold, I send you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbour." (D & C 88:81-82) We must realise the importance of this commandment. It's our responsibility to interest our friends, relatives and neighbours. Lets share the life saving principles of the Gospel and receive the joy for doing so.

Never let the devil spoil the work of the Lord, through you.

An obstacle is something you see when you take your eyes off the goal you are trying to reach.

Reaching high keeps a man on his toes.

The Importance of the Holy Ghost

JOHAN the Baptist proclaiming in the wilderness, repentance and baptism by water, foretold of a second higher baptism, which he characterized as being of fire and the Holy Ghost; this was to follow his administration, and was to be given by that Mightier One, the latchet of whose shoes the Baptist considered himself unworthy to unloose. That the holder of this superior authority was none other than the Christ is proved by John's solemn record "Behold the Lamb of God. This is He of whom I said; After me cometh a man which is preferred before me, and I knew him not; but he that sent me to baptise with water, the same said unto me:— Upon whom those shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptiseth with the Holy Ghost." From these words of John the Baptist we can see how the Holy Ghost is associated with the Father and the Son in the Godhead. The Holy Ghost, sometimes called the Comforter is the third member of the Godhead, distinct from the Father and the Son. He is a being endowed with the attributes and powers of Deity and not a mere force or essence.

With these thoughts in mind let us turn to a consideration of the mission of the Holy Ghost and its importance. It is evident that the mission of the Holy Ghost is to bear witness to men of the existence of God and the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and also to fill men with knowledge and power, to inspire them to works leading to happiness. The Comforter beareth record of the Father and of the Son. The labours assigned to this member of the Godhead are high and holy, and most necessary for man's eternal progress. The presence and power of the Holy Ghost are promised all

who have faith in God, repent of their sins, are baptised for the remission of sins, and have hands laid upon them by constituted authority in the Priesthood. The act of confirmation of the newly baptised person always includes the words "Receive the Holy Ghost." It is the baptism of fire, the great gift, the reward for obedience to the preparatory ordinances of the Gospel.

The gift of the Holy Ghost confers upon a person the right to receive as he may desire and need, the presence, light, and intelligence of the Holy Ghost. It gives, as it were, an official claim upon the mighty assistance and comforting assurance of the Holy Ghost. When the servants of the Lord display a spiritual power beyond the command of man, when the grief laden hearts beat with joy, when failure is converted into victory, it is by the help of the Holy Ghost. How much then have we the need for the Holy Ghost and its importance in our lives today. The gift of the Holy Ghost is not to be restricted to the prophets nor to those living in ancient times. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall Call." Acts 2:37-39. Everyone baptised worthily in Christ's Church has a right to the gift of the Holy Ghost, but this wonderful gift remains inoperative unless a person leads a worthy life. Worthiness determines whether a person shall enjoy the privileges promised when the "Gift" is conferred. It is useless to expect this high official assistance unless there is daily conformity to the laws of the Gospel. Faith and prayer, out of the heart, and unceasing, will fit a person for the presence of the Holy Ghost; only those who hearken, will be enlightened in the

path of truth and right. We as Latter-Day Saints have received, under the hands of those divinely empowered, this inexpressibly glorious "gift" which will lead us if we are fitted into the companionship of the Holy Ghost. And win for us intelligence and power to win joy in life and exaltation in the world to come; to those who have been so blessed have not always understood the greatness of that which

has been given them, or have not earnestly sought its help. So powerful a gift, with such boundless promise, justifies every attempt to cleanse body and soul. Certain it is, that only with the aid of the Holy Ghost shall we be able to rise to the heights of salvation of which we dream and for which we pray.

PRESIDENT C. NORBURY,
Primrose Branch.

* * *

IT behoves the Latter-day Saints, and all men, to make themselves acquainted with "the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he has sent." But can we through our own wisdom find out God? Can we by our unaided ingenuity and learning fathom his purpose and comprehend His will? We have, I think, witnessed examples enough of such efforts on the part of the intelligent world, to convince us that it is impossible. The ways and wisdom of God are not as the ways and wisdom of man. How then can we know "the only true and living God, and Jesus Christ whom he has sent?"—for to obtain this knowledge would be to obtain the secret or key to eternal life. It must be through the Holy Ghost, whose office is to reveal the things of the Father to man, and to bear witness in our hearts of Christ, and him crucified and risen from the dead. There is no other way or means of attaining to this knowledge.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

. . . the Holy Ghost has not a body
of flesh and bones, but is a
personage of Spirit. Were it
not so, the Holy Ghost could not
dwell in us.

(D. & C. 130:22)

For verily thus saith the Lord, it is expedient in me, that they should continue preaching the gospel, and in exhortation to the churches in the regions round about, until conference;

And then, behold, it shall be made known unto them, by the voice of the conference, their several missions.

Now, verily, I say unto you my servants, Joseph Smith, jun., and Sidney Rigdon, saith the Lord, it is expedient to translate again,

And, inasmuch as it is practicable, to preach in the regions round about until conference; and after that it is expedient to continue the work of translation until it be finished.

And let this be a pattern unto the elders until further knowledge, even as it is written.

Now I give no more unto you at this time. Gird up your loins and be sober. Even so. Amen

(D. & C. 73: 1-6)

FITNESS FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

PRIESTHOOD is divine power conferred upon man. The proper use of God's vast power needs to be well understood, so that our authoritative acts may be acceptable to our Father in Heaven, the author and giver of the power that we possess.

How to retain the Priesthood

The Priesthood is received by man, but the use of it determines whether it remains with him. The right to use it vanishes under the cloud of unrighteous living, for nothing so grieves our Heavenly Father as to have those who have received great knowledge, deny it and return to untruth. In the words of the Prophet Joseph Smith, "The power, glory blessings of the Priesthood could not continue with those who received ordination, only as their righteousness continued." (History of the Church, Vol. 4, Page 209)

Cain was authorized to offer sacrifice, but as he did not offer it in righteousness, in full faith and obedience, he was cursed. "The ordinances of the Gospel," says the prophet "must be kept in the very way God has appointed; otherwise their Priesthood will prove a cursing instead of a blessing." (History of the Church, Vol. 4, page 209)

This view of the Priesthood is not always remembered by those who are tempted—after having been ordained—to depart from the paths of righteousness. This makes a very serious matter of receiving this covenant and this Priesthood. For those who receive it must like God Himself, abide in it, not fail it, and must not be moved out of the way; for those who receive this oath and covenant and turn away from it and cease to do righteously and to honour this covenant; and will be abide in sin, and repent not, there is no forgiveness for them, either in

this life or in the world to come. (Gospel Doctrine, page 185)

It is better not to receive the Priesthood, than to receive it and dishonour it.

Fitness for the Priesthood

Men must be fit to receive the Priesthood, Ancient Israel, heirs to the Priesthood, so conducted themselves in the Arabian wilderness that they showed themselves unfit to hold the Higher Priesthood, which was consequently taken from them. The Lesser Priesthood alone remained, and that was confined to the tribe of Levi.

Men must prove themselves worthy by their lives to receive the Priesthood, and their advancement in the Priesthood should be determined by their lives within the Gospel fold. Fitness to receive the Priesthood is defined by Priest Jethro, who when advising Moses to secure helpers to administer the affairs of Israel, said: "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons." (Exodus 18:21-22) To receive the Priesthood, men must be able and God-fearing—men of truth, hating covetousness.

Knowledge of Gospel

The ability that enables a man to receive the Priesthood comes from devotion to the cause of God. The Gospel must be understood. Therefore, candidates for the Priesthood should be students of the Holy Scriptures and of the work of God. They should familiarize themselves with the principles, ordinances and organization of the Church. They should also learn how the knowledge of the Gospel may be administered

in the temporal and spiritual affairs of man. And above all they should engage actively in the work spoken of as the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Ability in worldly learning, or in achieving great human tasks, does not fit a man to receive the Priest-

hood. But ability in understanding and using the word of God, with respect to the eternal salvation of His children, enables a man to receive the Priesthood.

WILIAM H. BRUMMER,
Ramah Branch.

Primary Page

OBEDIENCE

“**T**HANK you dear Lord for this child, not my own possession, but my sacred charge. Teach me patience and humility, so that I might put into its mind the best I know how.”

One way of doing this for our children is to send them to Primary. There they are taught many important and vital basic precepts of the Gospel so essential to the formation of a strong character and a firm, unshakeable testimony of the truthfulness of this great Church.

One of the important precepts taught at Primary is ‘**OBEDIENCE**’. Obedience is one of the finest characteristics that one can have. Throughout life we have to practise it, so it is better for us to master it at an early age. Just as we, the parents, are overjoyed at the obedience of our little ones, so I know our Heavenly Father finds His greatest joy in the obedience of us, His children here upon the earth.

Obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only pathway leading to our exaltation and eternal life in our Father in Heaven’s Kingdom. Christ was required to be obedient, and because of His strict obedience to every precept of the Gospel Plan, He was offered a sacrifice for all, that through Him all mankind might be saved.

Our children are constantly taught in Primary to follow Christ’s example, and to live their lives pure and undefiled as He did.

Brigham Young often said, “Train up a child in the way it should go, and when it is old it will not depart therefrom.”

My humble prayer is that every child upon the face of the earth may find the joy, the happiness, the contentment, the peace of mind and the glory which can be gained only through obedience.

SISTER R. VICE
Krugersdorp Branch.

And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this

Life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come.

There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven, before the foundations of this world upon which all blessings are predicated —

And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.

(D. & C. 130:19-21)



Why We Should Attend Sunday School

HOW often do we hear it quoted, "We must remember the sabbath Day to keep it holy," and to "seek learning, even by study and by faith?" What better way can we find to keep the Sabbath Day holy, and to seek learning by study and faith, than by attending Sunday School? When children attend Sunday School, the immediate family benefits, and this in turn benefits the community in which they live. This produces good citizens that make possible the progress of a nation.

From this we see that the Sunday School is an asset to the nation. If there were no Sunday School today, many children, with idle time on their hands, would be roaming the streets, cursing, swearing, fighting and getting into trouble. In this way they have no respect for the Sabbath, and having no respect for the Sabbath, there would be no respect for God.

Often we find parents who are reluctant to send their children to Sunday School, for the reason that they attend day schools five days a week and do not want to burden them any more than is necessary. This is a wrong attitude to take, as there is a vast difference between the two schools.

At day school, no spiritual values are taught, while at Sunday School there are. So thus it behooves all children to attend Sunday School

and obtain the spiritual knowledge that is needed.

Richard Ballantyne in organizing the first Latter-day-Saint Sunday School, gave this reason. "I think that the Gospel is too precious to be withheld from the children. They ought to have the privilege of hearing it. This is the reason for the Sunday School—to teach them the Gospel. This is the objective of the Sunday School today . . . to teach the Gospel to every member of the church.

This wonderful organization is doing just that, as it caters for every age group. No one is too young or too old. We can never learn too much nor is there an end to studying to obtain knowledge. Isaac Newton once wrote, "I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy paddling on the sea shore, diving in now and then, finding a smooth pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay undiscovered before me."

We as Latter-day Saints may know all about where we came from and where we are going. This is only a smooth pebble in our search compared with the great ocean of truth that lies before us.

Surely then we can sing. "Haste to the Sunday School, Come, Come."

BROTHER ERNEST DOLLER
Port Elizabeth Branch

THE PURPOSE OF THE M.I.A.

OUR work is in one sense primary work, and yet it reaches beyond primary grades. The first and great object of the organization of the Mutual Improvement Associations as auxiliary organizations of the Priesthood in the Church was to become instrumental in bringing the youth of Zion to a knowledge of the truth, and in guiding them into the straight and narrow path. Through these auxiliary organizations we are able to reach out a guiding hand, and to exert an influence for good over many of our young men and women, whom it would have been difficult to reach by the organizations of the Priesthood. So far, these organizations have accomplished a most excellent primary work; for this is in the sense of a primary work, and I do not know but the necessity of our organizations will continue as long as we have children growing up in the Church.

We have instituted class work, have written manuals, and have given out subjects for study and improvement by all those who are connected with these organizations which have been intended to lead them along into greater experiences and better understanding of the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For, after all, this is the great and grand object of these organizations.

These organizations of young men and women are also intended to help the wayward, giddy and wild; to work with those who are at large in the world, who are not subject

to any organization at all; to gather them in; hunt them up, and get hold of them by love, by kindness, by the spirit of salvation, the spirit to bring them to a knowledge of the truth, that they may find the way of life and walk in it; that they may have light everlasting within themselves through the Spirit of God. (Young Woman's Journal, Vol. 18)

President Brigham Young, in referring to the Mutual Improvement Associations said: "Let the keynote of your work be the establishment in the youth of an individual testimony of the truth and magnitude of the great Latter-day work; and the development of the gifts within them." In other words, to obtain a testimony of the truth, and to learn to declare and express that testimony; and to develop all noble gifts within them.

The Mutual Improvement Association has affected the lives of thousands in helping them towards a better understanding of the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It sponsors many activities, such as sports, dancing, camping and many others to develop the physical qualities of a person as well as the spiritual qualities.

The Mutual Improvement Association helps to develop the talents which are hidden within each and everyone of us. It offers many opportunities for growth and advancement in leadership abilities, thus making the ones involved, not only a credit to the Church, but a credit to the community as well.

RELIEF SOCIETY NEWS

RELEASED:

Sister Anita Milne, as President of Bloemfontein Branch Relief Society, after four years of service.

Sister Muriel Willson, as President of Durban Branch Relief Society, after five years service.

Sister Ivy Fourie, as President of the Mowbray Branch Relief Society, after six years service.

Sister Eileen Folley, as President of the Port Elizabeth Branch Relief Society, after three years of service.

Sister Johanna Jubber as President of the Bulawayo Branch Relief Society, after nine years service.

SUSTAINED:

Sister Inez Spear as President of the Bloemfontein Branch Relief Society.

Sister Francis Duncan as President of the Durban Branch Relief Society.

Sister Ivy Milne as President of the Port Elizabeth Branch Relief Society.

Sister Veronica Dallender as President of the Mowbray Branch Relief Society.

Sister Palmer-Jones as President of the Bulawayo Branch Relief Society.



**SISTER ANITA
MILNE**
Bloemfontein



**SISTER EILEEN
FOLLEY**
Port Elizabeth



SISTER INEZ SPEAR
Bloemfontein



**SISTER FRANCIS
DUNCAN**
Durban



**SISTER MURIEL
WILLSON**
Durban

MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES



**ELDER BARRY D.
PARKINSON**
Portage, Utah

**LEFT
FOR**



**ELDER STANLEY F.
SESSIONS**
Idaho Falls, Idaho



SISTER JULIE BAKKER
Doonside, S.C. Natal



**ELDER JAMES D.
CLARK**
Salt Lake City, Utah

**H
O
M
E**



**ELDER ROBERT W.
WALLIN**
Park City, Utah

APPOINTMENTS

ELDER CLIFFORD BYWATER—appointed Travelling Elder on February 1, 1962.
SISTER MARGARET BURY—appointed Mission Recorder on February 20, 1962.

ARRIVALS

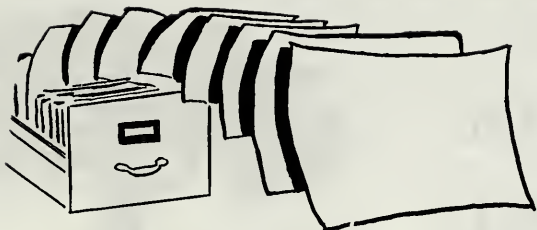
SISTER MARTHA J. JACOBS—from Carletonville, Transvaal, arrived January 30, 1962, assigned to Durban.
ELDER ALBERT M. ALDRICH—from Provo, Utah, arrived February 1, 1962, assigned to Durban.
ELDER MARION B. CHUGG—from Providence, Utah, arrived February 1, 1962, assigned to Cape Town.
ELDER BRENT K. MANGUM—from Salt Lake City, Utah, arrived February 1, 1962, assigned to Johannesburg.
ELDER REESE K. PARKER—from Providence, Utah, arrived February 1, 1962, assigned to Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia.
ELDER KEITH W. SMITH—from Logan, Utah, arrived February 1, 1962, assigned to West Rand.
ELDER CLARON E. SWENSON—from Salt Lake City, Utah, arrived February 1, 1962, assigned to Chingola, Northern Rhodesia.
ELDER BERKLEY D. THOMPSON—from Santa Rosa, California, arrived February 1, 1962, assigned to Pretoria.
SISTER MARGARET G. BURY—from Durban, Natal, arrived February 20, 1962, assigned to Mission Office.
SISTER SUSAN N. FORD—from Durban, Natal, arrived February 20, 1962, assigned to Pretoria.



RELEASES

ELDER BARRY D. PARKINSON—laboured in Durban, East London, Lusaka, N.R., served as Supervising Elder of Pretoria and Travelling Elder. Released February 1, 1962.
ELDER STANLEY F. SESSIONS—laboured in Cape Town, Bulawayo, East Rand, Port Elizabeth. Released February 1, 1962.
ELDER JAMES D. CLARK—laboured in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Bulawayo and Port Elizabeth. Released February 1, 1962.
ELDER ROBERT W. WALLIN—laboured in Johannesburg, East Rand, Lusaka, Bloemfontein and Vereeniging. Released February 1, 1962.
SISTER JULIANA BAKKER—laboured in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Served as Mission Recorder. Released February 3, 1962.

Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits.
A man who does his best today is a hard man to beat tomorrow.
A handful of common sense is worth a bushel of learning.
The most destructive acid in the world is found in a sour disposition.



FROM OUR FILES

Baptisms

EAST RAND

LINDSAY, Allan W. S.
LINDSAY, Anna Norah
VAN DER WALT, Andries J.
VAN ZYL, Adriaan

Ordinations

DURBAN

DYASON, Harry Jnr.—to a Priest
PORT ELIZABETH
VAN ROOYEN, Neville Louis—to a Priest
WELKOM
BRICKNELL, Cyril—to a Teacher
NEL, Brian—to a Priest

Blessings

BULAWAYO

LINDER, Storme Anne

DURBAN

JAKINS, Brent Ritchie

Marriages

MOLLER, Errol Elton A., married 2nd
December, 1961 to Hester Catarina P.
Du Plessis, in Krugersdorp.
HUBERT, Keith William, married 6th
January, 1962, to Valerie Snyman, in
Cape Town.

BRANCH NOTES (Continued from page 83)

WELKOM BRANCH

Cyril Bricknell

SISTER PARKINS is in the hospital for observation and Brother Beldon has undergone an operation on his knee. We of the Welkom Branch wish Sister Parkins and Brother Beldon a speedy recovery back to health.

The members held a braaivleis at President Robinson's home. The braaivleis was enjoyed by everyone. On the evening of the 19th February, we held a party to celebrate St. Valentine's day.

Elder Pickles was transferred to another branch. We thank him for all he has done for the Welkom Branch. We also would like to welcome Elder Stanko and we hope that his stay will be a happy one.

Sister Bricknell has gone on holiday to Cape Town.

BRANCH REPORTS



COPPERBELT BRANCH

Joan Clark

SISTER ALETHA TERBLANCHE is on a visit to her folks in Klerksdorp but will be back with us shortly. We are very pleased to welcome back the rest of our holidaymakers, all looking fit and well. Attendances at meetings are now back to normal.

Once again we are sorry to have to say farewell to one of our missionaries, this time Elder Bruce Winters, but we do welcome to our midst Elder Swenson, and hope he will enjoy the time spent on the Copperbelt.

Things are very quiet here at the moment so not much news, but we hope to have plenty of news in future of social activities.

Our best wishes to all the members of the South African Mission.

DURBAN

William Clark



BRANCH conference proved to be a tremendous success. Representatives from both the District Presidency and Branch Presidency spoke at all meetings. The theme centred around "Sacrifice and Service" and was ably presented by all speakers from original, novel and impressive points of view.

The month was further brightened by a visit from President Alldredge, who was the main speaker at Sacramento service on the 18th February. President Alldredge rendered advice to Durban Branch's two new missionaries—Sister Susan Ford and Margaret Bury, and concluded his speech with the announcement that his family was to be enlarged. He always adopts missionaries as part of his own personal family.

Thank you President Alldredge! The Durban Branch is supporting you. Keep in touch with us.

No slothfulness in the Durban Branch! Already building operations are underway and the "long looked forward to" hall is now a fact and not just a hope. The various Priesthood quorums have all undertaken projects to help furnish the new section adequately.

Rarely, if ever, has the Durban Branch witnessed such courage as that exhibited by Elder Mack Park, following his accident. We are proud to have such a member in our midst. Congratulations "Mack" on the twenty-fourth celebration of your existence on this planet. May you have many more.

Is the Durban Branch ahead again? Naturally! Six people were baptised this month, namely; Sister Ina Roberts, Lorna Jamieson and Sharon Jamieson, and Brother Petrus van Vuuren. Barry Roberts, and William Jamieson. To these members the Branch Presidency wish to extend a warm welcome. "Welcome to the Kingdom of God."

What a basketball team! Such rapid progress is being made by these keen, enthusiastic members that already they appear to have the Minor League chosen. Is it only rumour, or is it fact? The Durban Branch Basketball Team reckons it's good enough to "wipe-up" any Mission Team in the field. Any challengers? If not—well, that's only to be expected.

EAST LONDON

Rita Corrigan



IT was a terrible shock for the East London members to hear of the tragic accident which befell Brother Mack Park in January. We trust that our fasting and prayers helped in some way during the crisis which followed as an aftermath of the amputation of his leg. Exactly two years ago Elder Mack Park started his mission in East London, and during his labours here endeared himself to all members. So it was with true brotherly and sisterly concern that we anxiously awaited further news of the accident and the progress in health of this dear brother. Our

thoughts are with his mother and his brother Don also. We pray that the Lord will bless them all with courage and strength.

Since the last report, the East London Branch has had three visitors. We were pleased to make the acquaintance of Brother Terry Byrne, who hails from far-away Manchester, England. This young man was on his first long sea voyage on the S.S. "Jodmore", which had been to Karachi and was making its one and only South African call at East London, to load maize. As this took almost a week to complete, Brother Byrne was able to see something of our fair city and environs and enjoy the hospitality of the saints here while attending church services.

Our next visitor was Brother Lion-Cachet, whose "calls" are an almost regular thing since he took to a life at sea. Brother Lion Cachet's breezy nature seems typical of the ocean wave; this time he breezed in and out of East London on the S.A.S. "Good Hope". Unfortunately it was during the mid-week so he did not get around to meeting with all the Saints here. However, he did pass on news and greetings from Brother Mack Park, who we hear is making such excellent progress and is in high spirits in the Addington Hospital at Durban.

President Powrie was our third visitor and we were happy to have him at our services on Sunday, 11th February. His quiet, but forceful manner during his talk at Sacrament service impressed all present. Elder Bellon's excellent talk on "Free Agency" was a prelude to President Powrie's talk on "Evaluation and making the Right Choices".

The Relief Society Sisters were happy to begin regular meetings again in February after their recess period. They started their fund-raising activities with a successful cake sale in February.

Primary lessons have also commenced and after two months in recess and the long Christmas holidays in the Cape, the children are eager to set forth on their new courses.

Sister Edie Toughy and little Sister Geraldine Randall were down with flu at the end of January, but are up and about once again. Sister Toughy, however, has to have therapy treatment for her back, which has been causing her a great deal of pain. Sister E. Toughy Sen., has also been in very indifferent health lately.

MOWBRAY BRANCH

Yvonne van Rhyn



AFTER a good rest the Relief Society opened with a social which was very well attended. Primary has also re-opened and judging from the numbers present the Primary is definitely growing. The Mutual entertained the Branch by holding a Valentine party which was most enjoyable.

We had a Branch Conference on the 18th with three wonderful meetings in which we really felt the spirit of the Lord. As the speakers were called extemporaneously, we were really sitting on the edge of our seats.

We would like to welcome into our Branch Brother and Sister Banfield and family of Vereening, who intend to settle here.

We were pleased to see Sister Myers at our meeting after an illness. We hope that Sister Bibb, who is ill, will soon be well again.

PORT ELIZABETH

Madge McHugh

DURING the month Brother van Heerden entered the waters of baptism. We are happy to have him and his family all members.

Relief Society held a braaivleis at Brother and Sister Milne's home and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Over the weekend we had a visit from Brother Chater and Brother Lawrence from the S.A.S. "Good Hope" which was visiting Port Elizabeth. We were pleased to see them.

All the Saints here send greetings to all.

PRETORIA

Eileen van Stander

WELCOME home to all holiday makers who certainly look all the more fit. We are glad to report that President Smit has recovered from a severe bout of flu, and his son Boetie is much better as a result of an operation on his left ear. Everyone is happy and relieved to see Brother Ronald Richard's leg out of the cast after fifteen months.

Best wishes for success to Brother Alec Comrie, who has joined the Army Gymnasium for a year. We will miss him very much, but we feel compensated in having his brother John with us after his successful year in the Army Gymnasium. We shall also miss the three Muir sisters, Marinda, Carol and Beverley while they are away at boarding school.

We are happy to have with us Sister Hobbs and Sister Kirsten, two lovely lady missionaries. Also Brother Elliot and his daughter from Durban. Sunday, 21st January, proved a lovely visitor's day. It was good to have President Bibb and his family, Brother and Sister Hefer, Brother Balmer and Brother and Sister Nel and children with us. Another two visits were paid to us by Brother and Sister Deryck Vice and Children, along with Brother Vice's mother, who gave us an inspiring testimony to her faith in the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. The mission Sunday



School Supervisor, Brother Wagstaff, his wife and mother-in-law, who also left their testimonies with us, were in attendance.

The teacher's training class is progressing very nicely under the wise guidance of Brother Miesner.

Brother and Sister Harvey have gone on a six weeks holiday to the Cape. We wish them a very happy holiday and a safe journey home.

RAHAM

Miriam Nicholls



HELLO everyone! Ramah is certainly doing fine. New members keep coming in. Such lovely folks and they are making us a really wonderful branch.

The M.I.A. held a talent evening this month and it was a great success. Prior to going into the hall either to perform or to be a listener, we all got together with a braaivleis. It was really jolly and a fine way to get to know each other better. The folks who took part in this talent evening showed us just how greatly our Father in Heaven had endowed them, for it was like a professional show.

The Relief Society have resumed their meetings after their recess and as usual are working hard at making money; they held a jumble sale lately and also a cake sale.

They are a grand crowd of women.

Our conference was most inspiring. Our dear President Alldredge and his sweet wife were there; also President Bibb and President Faber, representing the District Presidency, spoke to us.

President Alldredge's speech will long be remembered. He is a humorous man and yet one can feel his spirituality emanating from him as one sits in the meeting. The choir sang beautifully under their most talented choir master and are to be congratulated. They worked very hard for this conference. The flowers which were arranged so beautifully by Sister Gwen Mathieson were a delight to behold and made one realise, while gazing on them, that God is truly a God of beauty.

The Aaronic priesthood held a film show this month; it was very well attended.

The Valentine's Party was quite a jolly one. Some of the members of the M.I.A. decorated the hall for the occasion, very artistically. It looked most attractive. Games and dancing were indulged in and cool drinks were served.

We wish you to pray for Sisters McKnight and Orton, also Sister Vice our dear friend and Brother Hanke, who are seriously ill, and for Sister van Niekerk who suffers so very much. Let us also remember our dear Brother Mack Park, who sustained serious injuries in Natal recently. Brother Park had to have his leg amputated, but we hear he is progressing favourably. We pray a blessing on all of these dear folk and ask our Heavenly Father to lay upon them His healing hand that if it be His will, He may restore them to health again.

We send our blessings to all of you dear brothers and sisters everywhere and trust that each month will be a more fruitful one both for you personally and for your branch.

SALISBURY BRANCH

Jean Schonnberg



WE are happy to announce that during the month a baptismal service was held at the home of Brother and Sister Taylor. On a beautiful Sabbath morning, 4th February, Mark Edward Taylor was baptised by his father, Brother Thelbert F. Taylor, and confirmed during Fast and Testimony meeting by President Kenneth Trotter. We welcome young Mark into the membership of the Branch and pray that our Heavenly Father will pour out His choicest blessings, that Mark will grow in grace and love of the Gospel.

The Corbett and Schonnberg families have returned from holiday in the Republic of South Africa, where they were able to make the acquaintance of the Saints in various Branches of the mission.

Relief Society has commenced its new session under the leadership of Sister Dora Storey, and is preparing for a busy year ahead. The sisters missed the association with one another and are happy that lessons, etc are now under way again.

Home Primary is commencing under the supervision of Sister Ina Taylor, and mothers will be anxious to help their children learn the Gospel truths as laid out in Primary lessons.

We are indeed very happy to see Sister Nisbet taking a more active part in Branch meetings and socials. Our prayers are for her, that her health may continue to improve steadily, that she may ever find joy and comfort in her companionship with the Saints.

On the 9th February, M.I.A. arranged for an instructive lecture to be given by Mr. Reid from a local assurance company. All those who were able to be present found it most informative as they had the mysteries of insurance and assurance disclosed to them; and were able to have any queries answered during the evening.

A film evening held on 27th January under the auspices of the priesthood netted the sum of £10 for building fund. Travel films and cartoons to thrill the younger members were shown. During the evening ice-cream, popcorn and minerals were provided.

The Saints have been busily scanning the chapel plans and the beautiful colour elevation plan. It lifts the heart to know that one day soon our dreams will be converted into bricks and mortar. The Salisbury Branch Building Fund at 31st December, 1961, stood at £1,082.

The members of the Salisbury Branch send greetings to all other branches of the South African Mission and pray each may progress in the work of the Lord in 1962.

SPRING BRANCH

N. C. van Niekerk



BROTHER and Sister Wagstaff and Brother and Sister Derek Vice paid our Sunday School an official visit on the 14th January. There were many visitors on this occasion. Brother Martin Kuening was sustained in the office of Branch clerk in the stead of Brother Les Dicks who was released with a vote of thanks.

M.I.A. combined fireside took place at the home of Sister Marie van Niekerk on the 21st January. The time was taken up by playing to a large audience, tape recordings of some fine homely chats of the Louws now living in Canada.

President Hulbert and his family spent some ten days or so at Warner Beach during January. There is ample evidence that the well earned rest has done them a great deal of good.

Brother Henri Hugo and his son John came off from their sea faring mishap at Gordon's Bay with nothing more than mild shock. (Thus the modest Hugos.)

Brother Ronnie Dye, a recent convert, is doing very well after a recent operation and is now back at work.

Sister Britz is recovering remarkably well after her recent car accident, in which she suffered the loss of her husband.

M.I.A. watermelon bust took place at Murry Park on the 24th January. I could not be present but I gather that it was a fine bust.

The Transvaal District M.I.A. Supervisor, Brother Danny Patterson and Brother Donovan Donnley paid us a visit on the 7th February. Brother Patterson brought a good word of encouragement to keep the light of interest in the M.I.A. glowing brightly.

The Valentine party sponsored by the M.I.A. on the 13th February was under the direction of Brother Wynn Armstrong. A good variety of tasty refreshments were provided and President Hulbert's Junior Band furnished the music.

Sister Jubber tells me that the Relief Society opening this year was most encouraging giving the impression of a much keener interest. From Sister Norma Hulbert comes the news that the Primary got off with a good start.

Brother Ronnie Louw, who started the first lap of his flight to Canada to join his parents, gave his farewell address on the 11th February. It was a sad parting but we do not begrudge Canada the privilege of so grand a son of South Africa. We wish Brother Louw every success in his new environment.

VEREENIGING

Rowland Roberts

FIRST of all I would like to correct the name of our Branch President to Zachareah Johanner Pienaar, whom I mis-reported as Izak Johannes Pienaar.

The M.I.A. started operation under the leadership of Brother Arthus G. Wilson in January and we record positively the fact that he was so nervous that his knees knocked, but we are sure that Brother Wilson will progress confidently as the time goes on.

A family of two were baptised in January which increased our strength still further. Four children are in this family, three of whom were blessed.

There is a great deal of enthusiasm in the branch and a Building Fund Committee has been formed of Sister Lynnette J. Roberts, Sister Sheila Wilson, and Brother Eben Slabbert. In fact they have already held a cake sale with gratifying results.

Further fund raising projects have been planned for the future of which we will hear more about next month. The branch is determined to have a chapel of their own as soon as possible and everybody is enthusiastically working toward that end.

The Lord continues to bless our efforts and we are all very happy that we are members of the Church.

WELKOM BRANCH (see page 77)

HIGH IDEALS

"The noblest lives are those which are inspired by high ideals. To your parents, to your teachers, to your country, to your Church, you are indebted for the ideals you cherish. Men who are true to high ideals are most contented in their private lives, and contribute most to the advancement of righteousness. Cherish your ideals as you cherish life itself."

President David O. McKay